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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/082,836

02/25/2002

Masahiko Yukawa

09792909-5346

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01/18/2005

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EXAMINER

DANIELS, ANTHONY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2615

DATE MAILED: 01/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/082,836

Applicant(s)

YUKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Anthony J. Daniels

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 2/25/02
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 February 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Drawings

1. Figures 3 and 4 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.121(d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1,5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Tamura et al. (US # 5,130,804).

As to claim 1, Tamura et al. teaches a solid-state image pickup device (see Figure 1) comprising: a circuit board (see Figure 1, circuit board “B”) having an opening (see Figure 1, opening “35”); a sensor package (see Figure 1, CCD “17”), disposed at one surface of the circuit board so that a light-receiving surface of a solid-state image pickup element opposes the opening (see Figure 1, “18”, “17”, and “35”; Col. 3, Lines 65,66), for sealing in the solid-state image pickup element (see Figure 7; *{The structure of the CCD sensor package of Figure 7 allows for it to be sealed.}*); and an optical unit (see Figure 1, lens unit “18”) disposed at the other surface of the circuit board so that incident light is focused on the light-receiving surface (see Figure 1; Col. 3, Lines 66-68, Col. 4, Lines 1,2; Also see Col. 4, Lines 61-66).

As to claim 5, claim 5 is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 1. Therefore, claim 5 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Art Unit: 2615

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2,3,6,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (see Patent Number above) in view of Ackland et al. (Non-Patent Literature).

As to claim 2, Tamura et al. teaches a solid-state image pickup device of claim 1, including a sensor package (see Figure 1, CCD "17"). The claim differs from Tamura et al. in that it further requires that the sensor package include a signal processing circuit for processing a signal of the solid-state image pickup element.

In the same field of endeavor, Ackland et al. teaches a signal processing circuit on the same chip as the CCD sensor package (see Figure 1: Conventional Multimedia camera). In light of the teaching of Ackland et al., it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the CCD sensor package of Tamura et al. to include

Art Unit: 2615

the signal processing circuitry of Ackland et al. Such a modification would allow for all of the processing to be done on a single chip; consequently, consuming less power and would allow for less space to be taken up on the circuit board.

As to claim 3, the limitations of claim 3 can be found in claim 2. Therefore, claim 3 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 2.

As to claims 6,7, claims 6,7 are method claims corresponding to the apparatus claims 2,3, respectively. Therefore, claims 6,7 are analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to apparatus claims 2,3.

5. Claims 4,8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (see Patent Number above) in view of Tullis (US # 6,535,243).

As to claim 4, Tamura et al. teaches a solid-state image pickup device of claim 1. The claim differs from Tamura et al. in that it further requires that the circuit board be connected to an external device without a connector.

In the same field of endeavor, Tullis teaches a connection between a computer and a digital camera via a wireless link (see Abstract, Lines 1-4). In light of the teaching of Tullis, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Tamura et al. to include a wireless link to an external device. Such a modification would save space on the circuit board due to the smaller size of antennas to connectors.

As to claim 8, claim 8 is a method claim corresponding to the apparatus claim 4. Therefore, claim 8 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to the apparatus claim 4.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony J. Daniels whose telephone number is (703) 305-4807. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andy Christensen can be reached on (703) 308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AJD
1/6/2005


NGOC-YEN VU
PRIMARY EXAMINER